



Being successful in any of SkillsUSA's competitions means following the most current rules, looking for the latest updates and — oh, yeah — being the best! In this eighth annual survey of contest organizers, find the extra info you need to gain an advantage.

Compiled by Craig E. Moore

KEY RESOURCES

- ➔ Start with the *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* or *Contest Singles* for your competition. Order at: www.skillsusa.org/store
- ➔ Find any recent changes at: www.skillsusa.org/compete/updates.shtml
- ➔ Get an expanded list of suggestions, including contests not covered in the print edition, at: www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/insiders10.pdf

What's new in this year's contest?

Computer Programming	Difficulty of the programs will be somewhat increased. — <i>Ken Morganstern, retired instructor, Missouri</i>
Electronics Technology	Competitors supplying their own meters, scopes, soldering tools and calculators. — <i>Wayne Hawley, U.S. Postal Service</i>
Employment Application Process	A penalty will be applied for a missing eligibility letter. — <i>Diane Swenson, Kronos Inc.</i>
First Aid/CPR	One single written test. White leather athletic shoes are acceptable. — <i>Glenn D. Haagar, Honeywell Inc.</i>
Medical Assisting	Addressing both the high school and postsecondary student's administrative and clinical skills. — <i>Diana Kendrick, Griffin (Ga.) Tech. College</i>
Medical Terminology	Medical abbreviations will be added to the contest test. — <i>Sherree Hughes, Ouachita Technical College, Hot Springs, Ark.</i>
Motorcycle Service Technology	We will again have a single two-hour station and seven half-hour stations. — <i>Michael O'Neil, Motorcycle Mechanics Institute</i>
Power Equipment Technology	The contestants should be ready to see different products. — <i>Dave Worden, OPE Magazine</i>
Prepared Speech	No practical changes, but a reminder that note cards may not be used. — <i>Craig Haugsness, Highland Park (Kan.) High School</i>
Residential Wiring	Students will pull their materials order from a makeshift wholesale house we will create in the contest area. — <i>Greg Rachal, Bayou Electric Inc.</i>
Robotics and Automation Technology	Additional hardware will be added. We are looking at adding a "Start" and "Stop" button to the workcell. — <i>David Crowell, intelitek Inc.</i>
Web Design	Additional emphasis on meeting the needs of clients. — <i>Bill Cullifer, World Organization of Webmasters</i>



In what areas do contestants struggle?

Automotive Service Technology	Using the special tools required for the 13 different contest areas. — <i>Scott Norman, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University</i>
Chapter Display	Improving the relationship of the display to the theme and clearly stating the theme on the display. — <i>John Scott, retired instructor, Georgia</i>
Chapter Business Procedure	The area that students can improve greatly is their preparation for the exam. — <i>Mark Johnson, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University</i>
Crime Scene Investigation	Deciphering what items are evidence within or on the vehicle. — <i>Michelle J. Nordyke, Kansas City, Mo., Police Department</i>
Entrepreneurship	Students need to better understand the financial statements and what incorporation means. — <i>Dorothy King, Career Academy, Baltimore, Md.</i>
Graphic Communications	The one area that seems to give our students major problems is production planning. — <i>Jesus J. Rodriguez, Pittsburg (Kan.) State University</i>
Industrial Motor Control	Conduit bending, installing equipment and the National Electrical Code. — <i>Robert Baird, Independent Electrical Contractors Inc.</i>
Job Interview	Answers should specifically relate to the interview question, not a general response. — <i>Mitchell Slomp, Mid-America (Okla.) Tech. Center</i>
Job Skill Demonstration A and Open	A competitor and advisor should study, prepare and follow the contest rules! — <i>Sam Williams, Lamar Institute of Technology, Beaumont, Texas</i>
Masonry	I would like to see higher grades on the written portion of our competition. — <i>Bryan Light, Brick Industry Association</i>
Medical Math	Any medical-related profession is fair game for the competition. — <i>Scott Brown, Wayne County Schools Career Center, Smithville, Ohio</i>
Medical Terminology	Students struggle with fill in the blank, developing the correct medical term from word parts. — <i>Sherree Hughes, Ouachita Technical College</i>
Outstanding Chapter	Read and follow the instructions in the new SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. — <i>Bill Mann, retired instructor, Florida</i>
Plumbing	Cast iron, soldering, measurements for the water supply and DWV piping. — <i>Mary Beth Hall, PHCC Educational Foundation</i>
Technical Drafting	Review everything from sketching to views, rules and reasons. — <i>Stephanie Kvamme, The CAD Store</i>

Photos: Lloyd Weir



For competitions not seen here and for full responses, read our online guide at: www.skillsusa.org/downloads/PDF/insiders10.pdf